Upgradation of Visakhapatnam Railway Station

1031. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Visakhapatnam station has been selected for upgradation as a model station;

(b) if so, when the works are proposed to be undertaken; and

(c) the allocation proposed to be made for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (c) Visakhapatnam station has been selected as a model station for upgradation of passenger amenities. Certain facilities in connection with the scheme have already been provided and the other remaining facilities are targeted for completion during 2000-2001. The requisite funds for these works will be provided.

Handing Over of Train Operations to Private Sector

†1032. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH:
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any plan to hand-over operation of train services on unproductive routes on contract basis to the private sector, in order to avoid the loss being caused at present;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government would consider to formulate such a plan in future; if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The Government decision is that Railways will remain in the Public Sector.

(c) There is no such proposal at present. In case any proposal is

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

received, it will be decided on merits and as per the rules in force at that time.

Bifurcation of Palghat Railway Division

1033. SHRI V.P. DURAISAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Railway Reforms Committee had recommended to bifurcate the over-congested Palghat Railway Divsion, as far back as in 1985;

(b) whether it is a fact that this bifurcation would result in formation of the Salem Railway Division;

(c) whether it is a fact that the then Railway Minister had announced sanction for the Salem Railway Division on 13th March, 1999 in Parliament; and

(d) if so, when the Salem Railway Division would be formed and when the action would be initiated in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Encroachment of Railway Land

1034. SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA:
SARDAR GURCHARAN SINGH TOHRA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated railway land under illegal occupation encroachment in the country as per latest survey conducted by the Ministry;

(b) the steps taken by Government in this regard;

(c) whether there is any proposal under Government's